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Der Hypnotismus, mit besonderer Berücksichtigung seiner klinischen und forensischen Bedeutung. Klinische Zeit- und Streitfragen, Band 1, Heft 2. Prof. Dr. HEINRICH OBERSTEINER. Wien, 1887.

This pamphlet presents, under the convenient captions, processes of hypnotization, sensory, motor, vegetative, psychic phenomena, suggestion, physiological explanation, therapeutic and forensic applications, a very concise account, by a well known physiological investigator, of the best results reached in this field by recent studies, and is especially addressed to practical physicians. It is by far the best in its space and ought to be translated into English and placed in the hands of every medical practitioner.

Der Hypnotismus in Frankreich. MAX DESSOIR. Sphinx, March, 1887, pp. 141-160.

This article describes briefly the literature upon the subject during the last few years, and contains the best general bibliography upon the subject yet made.

L'intensité des images mentales. A. BINET. Rev. Philos., May, 1887.

The world of images has its laws and its mechanism. Merely to indicate an idea by way of suggestion is not enough; it must be impressed. It must not only be introduced into the mind of the hypnotized subject, but must be reinforced along the various associative lines of force, for we exteriorize associations as well as single images. Most female subjects have a certain sexual attraction for the magnetizer which may be called "elective sensibility," or "experimental love." Suggestion is really suggestive of form but not color. The tone of voice, direct appeals to attention, increase psychic hyperexcitability and make images intense. Association by resemblance may be intense, and association by contiguity ignored, as *e. g.* in echolalia. Looking at a red disk intensifies the effect of feeble suggestion to hypnotics, making them effective and quickening the memory, and causing in a word the explosion of an idea or act suggested. Peripheral excitation thus corresponds to diffuse, and specific suggestion to localized excitation. So risk often stimulates premeditated crime by giving a stroke of the whip, as it were, to the imagination. Even pressing the eyebrows together, as in voluntary attention, causes psychic dynamogenesis, increases unconscious pressure on the dynamometer, and shortens reaction time. (Cf. Dr. Lombard's article in the November number of this journal on the knee-jerk.) Conversely, all contradictions enfeeble images, and may even expel them; so also does all resistance on the part of the subject, or a suggested image of paralysis. Separation of the eyebrows enfeebles movement and mental imagery. Paralysis may be suggested by association, as where hemiparesis is suggested and aphasia results with it, or where suggested paralysis of a word involves paralysis of the associated image.

Trance State in Inebriety. T. D. CROTHERS. Journal of Nervous and Mental Diseases, Sept. and Oct., 1886.

Dr. Crothers, who is probably the best authority in this country on the psychology of inebriety, adds in this article many interesting facts and inferences to his previous communication on this subject. Sudden partial loss of consciousness of variable duration he believes

to occur in the majority of cases of inebriety when there are no symptoms of intoxication. He may suddenly follow a line of conduct considered but abandoned before, and carry it on with vigor for days or weeks and then stop abruptly, indicating the close of the trance, and go on after with no reference to what he had done. Crimes are sometimes done in this state, with the most conclusive evidence of no memory of it whatever afterward. Even slight drinking often occasions blanks of memory so complete that others must inform the patient what has occurred. One wakes up, as it were, and finds himself in a Turkish bath with no idea of how he came there. This alternative state is perhaps best illustrated in periodic drinkers with long intervals between spreeds. All inebriates are bad witnesses as to themselves or their surroundings. The problem of responsibility for crime in such cases is a large field for future study. The relation of these phenomena to epileptic trances, as *e. g.* of the kind lately described by Dr. Hammond to account for mysterious disappearances, and to cases of hypnotic trance, multiple personality, etc., is yet to be traced.

Ueber die therapeutische Verwendung der Hypnose. Dr. RICHARD SCHULZ. *Neurologisches Centralblatt*, Nov. 1887.

A grave case of hysterical paraplegia, of two years' duration, in a seventeen-year old peasant girl who had been unaffected by other methods of treatment, was almost entirely cured by a few weeks of hypnotic suggestion. This case was studied with indefatigable diligence, and the exact extent of dermal anaesthesia for different tactile stimuli was carefully determined, and its changes shown by convenient illustrations. The same care was also directed to the demarcation of retinal insensibility. The description of the gradual development of the hypnotic state and of its curative effects is interesting in itself, and is made still more so by the fact that Dr. Schulz is himself a good hypnotic subject and gives his own impressions of the subjective nature of the hypnotic state. He inclines to Heidenhain's opinion that the cause of this state is the inhibition of ganglion cells of the cortex, induced by faint but prolonged stimuli of the facial, auditory, or optic nerve. With his patient, he believes the psychic impression that he possessed some marvellous mystic power played the leading therapeutic role. The reason German physicians have been less eager to follow the lines of investigation opened by Charcot and his school at Paris, and by Bernheim, Liebeault and Beaunis of Nancy, is, he thinks, that electricity and the Weir-Mitchell and Playfair-Burkart modes of treatment have been so much more widely used in Germany than in France, and with such good results; but strongly dissents from an opinion expressed by a recent writer, that German medicine should maintain an attitude of coolness toward the entire problem of hypnotism.

Two interesting new cases of hystero-traumatic paralysis in men are reported from Charcot's clinique in *Le Progrès Médical* for Jan. 22, 1887. A waiter, aged twenty-nine, of neuropathic heredity and history, was bruised by a vehicle. He often repeated the details of the accident in the ensuing delirium, but quite differently from the real facts, which seemed to indicate forgetfulness of all that took place at the moment of the accident. He experienced intense cerebral commotion followed by